

FROM: INTERNET:philjohn@uclink.berkeley.edu, INTERNET:philjohn@uclink.berkeley.edu
TO: (unknown), 100437,201
(unknown), 73261,246
(unknown), 73172,207
(unknown), 71702,137
meditel, 100043,2223
DATE: 19/6/95 14:45

Re: Montagnier spills the beans

Sender: rethinkaids-owner@uclink.berkeley.edu
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From: philjohn@uclink.berkeley.edu (Phillip E Johnson)
Message-Id: <199506191334.GAA04550@uclink.berkeley.edu>
To: rethinkaids@uclink.berkeley.edu
Subject: Montagnier spills the beans

Sunday Telegraph (London), June 18, 1995, Sunday, Pg. 1
HEADLINE: Aids tide has turned in Europe, claims professor
BYLINE: by Victoria Macdonald Health Correspondent

THE multi-billion pound Aids industry is in turmoil over claims by the French scientist who discovered the HIV virus in 1983 that the disease has stabilised and is even declining in parts of northern Europe. Professor Luc Montagnier, president of the World Foundation of Aids Research and Prevention, has delivered a blow to patient organisations saying that the problem is currently most severe in Africa and Asia and that efforts should now be concentrated there. In an interview with The Sunday Telegraph, Prof Montagnier said it was time the public was told the truth. He said there was no "explosion" of Aids in Northern Europe, adding that it was wrong to frighten the general public into thinking that there was a high risk of catching the disease because it only caused a backlash when it did not appear. His statement was immediately condemned by the Paris branch of Act Up, the lobby group for homosexuals. A spokesman accused him of ignoring the plight of French Aids patients, some of whom, they say, are unable to receive treatment. In England, Aids groups said that it was wrong of Prof Montagnier to pit Europe against Africa when both areas had their own specific problems with the disease. Prof Montagnier said he regretted falling out with Aids patients' organisations but he believes he has the public's support. The dispute between Prof Montagnier and the Aids organisations escalated following his resignation from ECS (translated as Everybody against Aids), an umbrella group of France's Aids organisations. Prof Montagnier claims that ECS had refused to distribute money raised from a national telethon-type event to African countries. "They said they did not have enough," Prof Montagnier said. Since his discovery in 1983 of the HIV virus, which can lead to Aids, Prof Montagnier has worked to persuade governments and international organisations to take action against its spread. In the UK, the number of people

} diseases of poverty not HIV

Diagnosed with HIV was 2,766 in 1985. Last year, the number was 2,411, according to official figures. But Aids organisations here expressed disquiet over Prof Montagnier's stand. Nick Partridge, of the Terrence Higgins Trust, said it was wrong to pit the needs of people in Europe with Aids against those in Africa and Asia. "We cannot let people run away with the idea that Aids in the UK is not having a significant impact," Mr Partridge said. "The achievement we have had in containing the epidemic here could be reversed if we let up on the campaigns now." Dr Patrick Dixon, founder of Aids Care Education and Training, which provides help to Aids patients here and abroad, said he believed Prof Montagnier was showing signs of despondency that billions of dollars had been spent on the disease with no sign of a vaccine.

- unlike you yourself
Nick.

akin to holding a
moonbeam in your hand,
Maria.